

Volunteering is the **heart** of this Fellowship.

Please do **your** part!

www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0548ADA822A64-weekly



AUUF Services • 10:00 A.M.

Sept. 2017



September 3
“Pilgrimage to Manzanar”
Rev. Pam Gehrke

Reflections on a visit to Manzanar National Historic Site, commemorating the incarceration of some 10,000 people of Japanese Ancestry from 1942-45. What wisdom emerges from this particular journey?

September 10
“A Year with the Humanist Service in the Witch Camps of Ghana”
Guest Speaker – Warren Tidwell
Potluck—Board Meeting

Warren Tidwell will share his reflections from his year spent in Ghana. Warren just returned from working for the Humanist Service Corps to help reintegrate women back into their villages who had been accused of witchcraft and exiled to witch camps.

September 17
TBD

September 24
“Dancing in the Streets”
Rev. Pam Gehrke

Among the basic human emotions, happiness is the one we actively pursue. We explore the spiritual dimension of happiness and consider ways of promoting and nurturing private contentment and collective joy.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Rights at Risk – Cindy Reinke

The UUSC Rights at Risk program focuses on human rights crises around the world. It partners with marginalized communities in their struggle for self-determination. This includes strategic partnerships with grassroots organizations in 19 countries across five continents (<http://www.uusc.org/our-work/where-we-work>). In the United States partner impact and activities include:

- Created a #WelcomeRefugees guidebook to support resettlement and integration of Syrian refugees in Southern California
- Hosted a series of events where Syrian refugees could share their stories, and launched an advocacy campaign to combat xenophobia and Islamophobia
- Won a federal lawsuit reaffirming that state governments cannot discriminate against resettled refugees on the basis of religion or national origin
- Screened 1,320 formally detained Central American families to determine their need for post-release legal services
- Established a multimedia team to produce eight short-form videos to mobilize public support for ending family detention
- Published hard-hitting research showing that U.S. Border Patrol tactics directly contribute to the missing persons crisis in the borderlands.

AUUF is a member of UUSC. Individuals can also join. Charity Navigator give UUSC a four star rating. If you would like to join, go to <http://www.uusc.org/membership/>.

September 2017

All Month: Services @10 am.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
						10 am Vipassana Meditation
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		5 – 6:30 pm Yoga	6:30 – 8 pm AUUF Saints and Singers	6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Potluck Sunday 12:15 – 2 pm Board of Trustees Meeting		5 – 6:30 pm Yoga	6:30 – 8 pm AUUF Saints and Singers	6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship	7:30 pm Sundilla Concert: The Rough and Tumble	10 am Vipassana Meditation
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
5 – 8 pm Humanist Potluck – Busch Center		5 – 6:30 pm Yoga	6:30 – 8 pm AUUF Saints and Singers	6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		5 – 6:30 pm Yoga	6:30 – 8 pm AUUF Saints and Singers	6:30 pm East Alabama Buddhist Fellowship	7:30 pm Sundilla Concert: Rebecca Loebe	



The Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is a community dedicated to affirming a reverence for life and enriching the spiritual lives of its members. Here we honor the one and the many; here we welcome a diversity of thoughts, beliefs and passions; here we speak without fear and listen with open hearts. We gather to care for one another, share our burdens and joys, and celebrate life's passages. Strengthened by this fellowship, we bring a liberal religious presence to our larger community and work for a safe and just world.

In the Loop

As The Prez, sometimes I wonder whether this “loop” I’m supposedly in is really more of a noose. Or maybe it’s a leash. But such occasional harebrained (loopy?) thoughts are typical, I suppose, of someone who is still learning the system. (I use the term “system” loosely).

But, in truth, most of the time I am impressed at how well most things go around here. That’s because the people who were elected to the Board are seriously committed to doing a great job. Dead serious.

I can state that as a categorical fact because the Board spent the better part of a Saturday in August – hours, and hours, and hours, when they could have been swimming in Lake Martin, or riding their bikes on back roads, or eating corn on the cob on a porch somewhere – instead, slaving away over documents, discussing Board stuff, listening to me talk on and on about Board stuff (truly a test of devotion), and doing team-building exercises, led by Pam. It was a Board Retreat!! If you run into Kristen, Darrell, Amy P., Greg, Shawn, Marcia, Kitty, or Laura (your Board), tell them “Thanks!” for stepping forward to retreat.

Did I say “stepping forward?” By the time you read this, you will have stepped forward too and answered an AUUF Help Wanted ad...I hope! There is a lot to do to make this place tick and tock. It’s more fun sharing the work among lots of us. In an ideal AUUF, everyone would have some job to do, some contribution to make. In an ideal AUUF, your job(s) would fit you – your talents, your personality, your schedule. That’s the idea behind the Help Wanted ads: you pick as many or few jobs as you want, and pick the kind of jobs that appeal to you – either because it’s work you’re familiar with, or because it’s work you’ve never done before! Please look through the Help Wanted ads on the walls, and take the plunge. Don’t think of it as doing a job; think of it as building community.

§§§

The Busch Center now has termite protection. It was the only one of our buildings to lack it, inexplicably. No more! Thanks to Shannon Price, the Buildings committee chair, for taking care of this.

§§§

Before I retired, I was an organic chemist at AU. I thought up strange things for molecules to do, and then tried to get the molecules to do them. Sometimes the molecules and I thought alike, and sometimes we didn’t. The real fun came when I found out the molecules had much weirder thoughts than me. (Discovery!)

The point is: I did experiments. In my countless centuries of attendance at AUUF, I’ve come to love the fact that AUUF also encourages experimentation. If someone said, “I think we should have a Sunday service where we all pour concrete,” or, “Let’s form a group to discuss dreams that come to us in our sleep,” or “Let’s go slosh through a swamp at night,” the AUUF would respond, “Sure! Let’s try it!” (Indeed, we did try those three things).

Who thinks up these experiments?

You do.

You don’t have to be on the Board. You don’t have to be a committee chair. You just have to be you. So, here’s one more Help Wanted ad:

Wanted: Experimentalists like you, to suggest new ways to encourage and support each other on our spiritual journeys.

Loop is pool backwards,
~ Peter

RE/DRE

...on Religious Education

From Julie Meadows, the Director of Religious Education



Welcome back to RE this month!!

Our two youngest classes have already had their Back to RE Bash. The youngest class had a Water Play event with a slip and slide, sprinkler, games, and snacks. You can imagine how much fun that was! The middle class celebrated the return of RE with an Overnight at the Busch Center followed by hosting a Pancake Breakfast the next morning for the congregation. Thank you to all who took advantage of sharing the morning eating pancakes with the kids and hearing about what they did during their Overnight. Our oldest class will celebrate their Back to RE Bash this month. I hope you find the time to seek out any of the children and ask them about their experiences during these events. Part of being the Village is taking advantage of the rewards of getting to know these kids and what they are doing while at AUUF.

Please note the calendar below so that you will know what is going on this month with RE. There are a few things that are congregation-friendly, including an RE for All Ages and an RE work party. I hope this year that all congregants who do not have children in RE will seize an opportunity to get to know the future of AUUF, learn the names of the kids, and find out what they are interested in, what they are doing in RE and what they are passionate about. This is your chance to strengthen their tie to AUUF and the values we stand for.

Julie Meadows

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September:

- 9 Youngest RE class teachers go to Atlanta for Spirit Play training
- 16 RE Work Party (painting and a few other things)
- 17 Pinwheels for Peace
- 17 Teens Back to RE Bash
- 24 First Day of RE / Alabama Water Watch

RE Class Description:

This “Jedi Academy” will offer padawans (students) an opportunity to develop practical spiritual skills. The curriculum is separated into five training categories:

- Skill (physical training, including some lightsaber training, along with peacekeeping and how to make good choices despite forces pulling in other directions)
- Senses (Connection of the body and physical experience to spirituality)
- Courage (Mindfulness training and using that to become a positive force for change in the world, even - and especially - when the odds do not seem in their favor)
- Insight (Exploration of big questions – good, evil, death, morality and more)
- Spirit (Spiritual practices grounded in Unitarian Universalism which will allow them to feel connected to something larger than themselves...a larger purpose, a greater strength, a sense of lineage, etc.)

All of the classes include components of all five training categories, though each will focus on one aspect. These classes are not merely philosophical discussions. This is hands-on, active training for our Jedi padawans.

A Message from the Interim Minister

Dear members & friends,

As I was getting ready to head to campus to attend the eclipse event at Auburn University, I sat still for awhile to read Annie Dillard's essay "Total Eclipse." It describes her experience of the 1979 event near Yakima, Washington. I decided not to join the many heading for the path of totality, even though it would have been a reasonable distance for a day trip. Instead, I enjoyed the company of several hundred people on the green—mostly students. It was the first day of the fall term, and I wondered how discussions would go in their classrooms afterward.

It was a moment of celebration: an atmosphere of awe and wonder and human connection prevailed. A few fluffy clouds drifted across the sun/moon spectacle briefly once or twice; the crowd grew as the maximum point approached.

Kristen Starr posted on Facebook, "I wish we could all appreciate the Cosmos this much EVERY day." Indeed! And I would add, I hope we can remember the feeling of human solidarity evoked by our various experiences of the eclipse. I hope we can remember the feelings of awe and wonder and curiosity and imagination that arose in anticipation and response to the "eclipse across America," for these are essential to our common aspirations for a just society and a planet transformed by our care!

In faith, Pam

Rev. Pamela Gehrke, PhD

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Reminder: The deadline for newsletter items
 is 20th of the month.

Ring of Fire

Behold the kiss of moon and sun
 An eclipse at sunset;
 Before the world took shape
 As embraced on an anxious beach
 With a ring of fire to light the dusk
 With rays of light to escape.

No cloud with ease can obscure this tale
 As every eye does stare or blink,
 And mouths fall agape
 When the moon beds down the sun,
 When Nature reveals chance and
 Laid-light falls upon our landscape.

[by Conrad Ross]

Volunteers are the Heart of AUUF
www.auuf.org/signup

PLAYGROUND VOLUNTEERS

September 3 ? & ?
 September 10 Kitty Frey & ?
 September 17 Ayesha Alam or Jason Pratt & ?
 September 24 ? & ?

GREETERS

September 3 Jan Newton & Emily Livant
 September 10 Carolyn Levy & Eddie Peek
 September 17 Emily & Peter Livant
 September 24 Shawn Jacobsen & Peter Livant

STORYTELLERS

September 3 Pam Gehrke
 September 10 Greg Schmidt
 September 17 Jamie Harrison
 September 24 Pam Gehrke

ANGELS

September 3 Conar Rochford & Gisela Buschle-Diller
 September 10 Conar Rochford, Steve Harrison, Kitty Frey, & ?
 September 17 Emily & Peter Livant
 September 24 ? & ?

SEPTEMBER LAWN MOWING

September 2 ? & ?
 September 16 ? & ?